

Jefferson Memorial Forest

11311 Mitchell Hill Road
PO Box 467
Fairdale, KY
40118

502/368-5404

www.memorialforest.com

www.metro-parks.org

forest@louisvilleky.gov

parks@louisvilleky.gov

Welcome Center

Wednesday-Saturday
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Sunday/Holidays
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Until further notice

The Welcome Center
is your destination
for maps, gift items,
program reservations,
camping reservations,
permits and
Forest information.

Directions

From I-65 south, take the
Gene Snyder Freeway II-2651
west and exit at New Cut Road.
Turn left, go about one mile,
and turn right onto
Mitchell Hill Road.
Follow the signs to the Forest.

Mission Statement

The mission of
Louisville Metro Parks
is to create
a City of Parks
and enhance the
quality of life for
citizens of Louisville Metro
by maintaining and acquiring
attractive, vibrant parks
and offering safe, diverse
recreation programs, and
protecting these lands
and resources for
future generations.

Disturbance and Renewal

Every so often, perhaps once every decade or so, some form of major disturbance has occurred in the Forest. In 1996, it was a devastating tornado which cut a nearly mile swath through the woods. In 2004, it was severe thunderstorms and high winds which felled thousands of mature trees. Both of these events represented a great challenge to the natural system and also those managing the Forest at the time. In terms of the ecological impact, these events changed the landscape, removing a layer of the canopy that had been in place for years and largely defined the condition of the forest. With that layer removed, the forest canopy was opened and the process of renewal began with other species able to fill the void thus created. These events further required those involved with the Forest to come together in response to the change. In both cases, many hours were spent by Forest staff and volunteers to deal with the impacts in keeping with the Forest's mission.

While the analogy is less than perfect, the Forest is currently undergoing a period of renewal as a result of changes that, while not devastating, are at once a challenge and an opportunity. Two key Forest employees have moved on recently to take other positions. Tonya Swan, the Forest's Public Education Supervisor in charge of all Forest programming and a key staff member for nearly 12 years, left this spring to take a new position with the Louisville Free Public Library. Similarly Gina Tate, our Business Clerk in charge of Welcome Center operations, recently took a higher position with the Iroquois Amphitheater.

Their absences are certainly felt and it has taken the efforts of the entire Forest staff to fill the void this summer.



Tonya Swan

Gina Tate,
with seasonal-
turned-employee
Missy Hatfield



It is not possible in this limited space to adequately detail all that Gina and particularly Tonya (due to her longevity and leadership role), have meant to the Forest's growth and development. Tonya was the first staff person in the Forest's history solely dedicated to program development. In her position she was instrumental in a number of the major improvements that have occurred at the Forest since 2001, many of which have been sustained now for a number of years. These include development of the Forest summer camp offerings, our annual Forest Fest bluegrass festival, and perhaps most importantly, development of a wonderful group of volunteers who assist with Forest programs regularly. And these are just a few of her many accomplishments during her tenure.

Gina, in her relatively short tenure at the Forest, accepted a great deal of responsibility and was instrumental in improving the quality of service that we offer at the Welcome Center. As a result of her efforts we've seen visitors to the Welcome Center increase substantially and we are grateful to her for her work to keep things moving smoothly as she constantly worked to standardize procedures.

Many of you are no doubt familiar with both Gina and Tonya and we hope you'll join us in both recognizing their memorable contributions to the Forest and wishing them future success. Both leave a legacy of accomplishment and will be sorely missed. At the same time, as with any staffing change we must take it as an opportunity to build upon the accomplishments of those who have moved on. Both Tonya and Gina were able to take their areas to greater heights and so it is from this fortunate position that we look forward welcoming the individuals who will soon join us.

Bennett Knox, Parks Administrator



Volunteer News

Corporate Spotlight: Louisville Gas & Electric Volunteers

On Saturday, June 15, LG&E sent 58 employees to the Forest to mulch the Tom Wallace Lake shoreline, trails, fishing spots and newly planted trees. Some volunteers hit the trail with our Trail Team members to assure nearby trails were safe by clearing encroaching plant life and overhanging branches. A few others did a litter sweep ahead of the mulch and picked up trash in the play and picnic areas.

Many thanks to this enthusiastic and hard-working group! We gave them a big task and they knocked it out in record time. We appreciate their generosity and can-do spirit! Together, the group performed 174 man-hours of labor, valued at \$3,852. Now that's worth bragging about! Check out our Facebook album for photos of the day at facebook.com/jmfnaturalareas.



The LG&E volunteer t-shirt says it all!

U of L Students Have SOUL

Twenty-two students from University of Louisville SOUL celebrated the Mayor's Give A Day week by spending a morning removing litter on the Louisville Loop. These generous young people donated 66 hours to improving a downtown portion of the Loop from 10th Street to the K&I drawbridge. We applaud their love of community and willingness to help us keep our riverfront clean!

Spaulding University sent 14 staff and faculty

members to assist with our continued focus on litter removal from the Louisville Loop. This effort also centered on the riverfront, donating an additional 42 hours of work and effort to cleaning up this area.

Metro Corrections

Many thanks to Louisville Metro Corrections for the continued support at Beargrass Creek Greenway. The Corrections training department adopted the Greenway and each class performs a service day to celebrate their impending graduation. On Saturday, July 27, 18 graduates, several officers and few of their children pitched in to remove a mini

dump truck worth of trash and trim back overhanging limbs from the trail, for a total of 56 hours of service! We congratulate the group on their graduation and appreciate the hard work!

We sincerely thank the groups mentioned above for their hard work and dedication to enhancing our city and park system. Their selfless donation of time and energy is what makes our city stand out among others. These groups are proof that we are a compassionate city!



Corrections graduates volunteer at Beargrass Creek Greenway.

Fiscal Year 2013 Report

You've heard it before: Volunteers are a big part of what we do. How big? From July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 (our fiscal year), the Natural Areas division has hosted 291 individuals for one-day service projects and 929.25 service hours. This includes corporations and community groups doing single day service projects and individuals who chose to join one of our regularly scheduled project days.

We also had 80 ongoing volunteers who logged an amazing 3,884.7 service hours! These dedicated individuals give their free time to the Forest to make sure the trails are in good condition for all the park guests, the invasive plant species are controlled, the facility landscaping is well maintained, the office runs smoothly, the nature center animals are cared for and our programs have leaders. We literally could do not do all we do without them.

Put another way, these volunteers offered 4,813.95 hours, equivalent to 2.3 full time workers for the entire year. Using the national average value for the volunteer hour, they donated \$106,580.85 worth of service. Now that's worth bragging about!

Heartfelt thanks to each and every person who gave of themselves to make our parks cleaner and safer, our ecosystem stronger and our programs the best in the land.

Does your group have what it takes to make a difference in a Natural Areas park? Give us a call! We would love to coordinate a volunteer event especially for you. We have projects suitable for single-day service projects as well as Eagle Scouts. If you need a project, contact Volunteer Coordinator Sherry Wright at 380-1753 or at sherry.wright@louisvilleky.gov.



Volunteer News

Congrats to Our Shining Stars!

The Natural Areas Division held a Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on April 13 in the Forest's Horine section. Many thanks to the Fairdale Dairy Queen for donating hot dogs, burgers, buns and all the paper goods in support of our amazing volunteers!

In addition to good food, there were games, great conversations and service hour awards for milestones accomplished within the last year. Congrats to our milestone achievers:

50 HOURS

Mike Blair, Thomas Davis, Hannah Kalbhin, Stephen Kendra, Karen Klapheke, Bradley LeGrand, Larry Lewis, Kristi Meier, Ed Olliges, Elzie Peacock, Rickey Singleton and Mike Tate.

These volunteers received a 50-hour pin and a \$10 Forest gift certificate.

100 HOURS

Mike Blair, James Carter, Thomas Davis, Josh DeGeorge, John Hatton, Debbie Houpt Blocker, Steve Freeman, Diana Howlett, Bradley LeGrand, Larry Lewis, Richard Mazzoli, Sally Nielsen, Caleb Payne and Eric Weidner.

These volunteers received a 100-hour pin and a Natural Areas ball cap.

250 HOURS

Nick Blocher, Billy Davis, Jean Gawarecki, Susan Hatton, Pam Henninger, Dann Higgins, Cynthia Payne and Candice Puckett.

These volunteers received a 250-hour pin, a copy of Chicken Soup for the Volunteer Soul, and a certificate for free camping.

500 HOURS

Rick Bywater

These volunteers received a 500-hour pin and a \$25 Forest gift certificate.

1,000 HOURS

Margie Jones and John Buchenberger.

These volunteers received a 1,000-pin, a logo duffel with their name embroidered on it and a tree planted in their name within a Natural Areas park.

Congrats to all the service hour milestone award winners and to all our volunteers! You're the best volunteers we could imagine!

Second Annual Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures

Join Metro Parks staff as we canoe the Ohio River, taking off from Riverview and Shawnee Parks. Our adventure will showcase the beauty of the great outdoors... in Louisville's backyard!

This Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures (UWCA) program started with the goal of serving 10,000 urban youth in the Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota area... linking learning standards to environmental education and stewardship, and promoting physical activity in the outdoors.

The UWCA is coming to Louisville to introduce hundreds of youth and families to the beauty of the Ohio River! Canoe trips will be conducted in safe and stable 24 and 32 foot Voyageurs, which hold up to 15 people each. Safety equipment and trained staff will be provided.

These canoe trips will be FREE to groups and individuals, but preregistration is REQUIRED. Contact Jefferson Memorial Forest at 502/368-5101 for more information and to reserve your slot.

Event is open to everyone ages 3 and older. Wear comfortable outdoor clothing that can get wet; no flip-flops please. Coolers will be available, so bring a refillable water bottle.

Open spots are will be going fast, so reserve yours early!



Sponsored by District 12
Metro Councilman
Rob Blackwell
and District 5
Metro Councilwoman
Cheri Bryant Hamilton

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4
Shawnee Park
4501 West Broadway 40211

Parking next to Dirt Bowl courts.
Enter Shawnee Park Drive at
Southwestern Parkway
and follow signs

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5
Riverview Park
8202 Greenwood Rd 40258

Park in the upper parking lot, and
gather in the lower lot near the river.





Public Program Calendar: August to December

The Forest offers programs for all ages. For more information visit our website at memorialforest.com or call the Welcome Center at 502/368-5404. Our staff will be happy to help make reservations, give directions to the program location, or provide a complete schedule of programs throughout the year. For all programs, please wear close-toed walking shoes and dress for the weather.

Reservations are required in advance. The Forest reserves the right to cancel, change or postpone program dates and venues, due to insufficient registration, conditions or weather. In such cases rain checks will be provided.

ARCHERY

Saturday, August 3, 9 a.m. to Noon

Learn how to shoot a bow and arrow within minutes. This program is for all physical ability levels. All equipment is provided. Children 8 and over are welcome and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Fee: \$10/person. Preregistration required; call 502/368-5404.

FOX: FAMILIES OUTSIDE X-PLORING

Saturday, August 17, 9 a.m. to Noon

SUMMER IN RIVERVIEW PARK

Features: Ohio River, playground, spray ground, picnic areas, wooded area. Explore the banks of the Ohio River, cool off in the water park, and traipse through the woods. This is a great opportunity to play with your kids and let them experience nature.

Bring water bottles, a snack and dress for the weather. We will be outside the whole time. Warning: You will get dirt on your shirt! Children can wear a swimsuit under their clothes for the spray park. Meets in the upper parking lot of Riverview Park. Fee: \$8/family. Preregistration required; call 502/368-5404.

FREE GUIDED HIKE

Saturday, August 31, 8 a.m.

Purple Heart via Siltstone Trail and crossing Tom Wallace Dam - 2.5 miles - moderate to strenuous. Meet at the Welcome Center.

FAMILY CANOE DAY AT TOM WALLACE LAKE

Saturday, September 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Get yourself geared-up for a family treat and special day of fun! Take a canoe out on the lake and explore. Are you ready to start paddling but not sure of where to start? Join

us to discover the basics of canoeing. Spend some time on the lake practicing your skills.

Don't worry if you are new to canoeing - all equipment (canoe, paddles, and personal flotation devices) is provided. This program is suitable for beginning paddlers (ages 5 and to adult.) Fee: \$10.00 canoe rental

FREE GUIDED HIKE

Saturday, September 28, 8 a.m.

Moremans Hill - approximately 3.5 miles - easy to moderate. This area is not open to the public and has no amenities. There are no designated trails, restrooms or other facilities. Please wear sturdy shoes/boots and plan accordingly. Meet at the Sandlot parking lot off Deering Rd.

SECOND ANNUAL URBAN WILDERNESS CANOE ADVENTURES

SHAWNEE PARK

Friday, October 4

Scheduled times to be determined

RIVERVIEW PARK

Saturday, October 5

Scheduled times to be determined

Save the dates and join others explore the Ohio River. This free event is designed for individuals and families who may be new to canoeing to experience the water in safe and stable voyageur canoes which can hold between 10 and 15 people. All safety equipment and trained staff are provided.

The event is open to anyone ages 3 and older. Where comfortable outdoor clothing that can get wet, no flip flops please. All participants must preregister for a designated session. Groups are encouraged. More details to come so please check out website in September.

MAYOR'S HEALTHY HOMETOWN FALL ADVENTURE

Saturday, October 19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Join Mayor Greg Fischer for a family-friendly fall exploration of Jefferson Memorial Forest. The event is held near the Forest's Environmental Education Center and offers a wide variety of activities showcasing all the Forest has to offer.

Forest staff, and volunteers, introduce visitors to our native plant gardens, and animal exhibits. Activities for children are provided in the Nature Explore area. Climb the 52-ft Alpine Tower or take advantage of a canoeing demonstration on Mitchell Hill Lake. Free pumpkins and pumpkin decorating, hay rides and Shack in the Back BBQ will provide breakfast and lunch items for purchase.

A portion of food sales go to benefit Jefferson Memorial Forest. Meets at the Horine Reservation. Event is FREE!

FREE GUIDED HIKE

Saturday, October 26, 7 p.m.

Special Night Hike on the Siltstone Ridge, Purple Heart Shortcut and Tom Wallace Lake - 2.5 miles - moderate to strenuous. Gather round a small fire and make your own s'mores. Meet at the Welcome Center.

NATIVE AMERICAN DAYS

**Friday and Saturday, November 1 & 2
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Step into the woods and back in time to discover the wonder and complexity of the first people of Kentucky and experience what can be learned when you come face-to-face with history!

The Knobs Living History Weekend is a two day event and re-enactor encampment where the first indigenous people of this region come to life! Experience daily life

Continued



through hands-on experiences, stories, American Indian re-enactors, and traditional craftsmen.

Friday will be closed to the public and available only to school groups who preregister by calling 502/368-5404. Fee: \$8 per student

Saturday will be open to the public. Re-enactors, blanket traders, and traditional craftsmen must complete an application and be pre-approved. To receive an application, contact Matt Douthitt 502/366-5432. Saturday parking: \$5

FOX: FAMILIES OUTSIDE X-PLORING

**Saturday, November 16, 9 a.m. to Noon
FALL IN VETTINER PARK**

Features: fishing lake, wooded area, playground, picnic areas

Get your Family Outside eXploring a different Metro Park each season. A naturalist will guide your family on an exploration in forests, fields, lakes and ponds. Hike, search for tracks, build forts, catch pond critters, get muddy, play in leaves, get away from technology and become a closer family.

This is a great opportunity to play with your kids and let them experience nature. Bring water bottles, a snack and dress for the weather. We will be outside the whole time. Warning: You will get dirt on your shirt! Meets in the parking lot next to the tennis courts and playground. Fee: \$8/family. Preregistration required; call 502/368-5404.

FREE GUIDED HIKE

Saturday, November 16, 9 a.m.

Yost Ridge Trail to Coral Ridge Loop and back - 6.5 miles - moderate to strenuous
- Meet at the Welcome Center

FREE GUIDED HIKE

Saturday, December 14, 9 a.m.

Open - Hikers pick trail. Meet at the Welcome Center

THE Mayor's Fall Hike

AND

Outdoor Adventure

**Saturday
October
19**

**10 a.m.
2 p.m.**

**Pumpkin
Decorating
Guided Hikes
Nature Fun
Archery**

**Canoe/Kayak
Demos
Hayrides
5K Race
Alpine Tower
Climbs**

Come hungry! We will have refreshments!

Jefferson Memorial Forest Horine Reservation

**12304 Holsclaw Hill Rd
502/368-5404**

**Look for Forest signs
starting at exit 6
on I-265!**



**METRO PARKS
AND RECREATION**



**mayor's
HealthyHometown**

GOOD FOR YOUR BODY, GREAT FOR EVERYBODY.



Land Management Notes



The Mayor's Give A Day Week

It has been a really great year for rainfall and for that we are grateful since we have planted over 1,000 trees and shrubs in the last year. The ample precipitation will go a long way to help these young plants get established in the restored woodlands of Tom Wallace, Caperton Swamp

and Clifton Heights Greenway. Several of these trees were planted as part of the Mayor's Give A Day week (above). A large and generous group from UPS spent two days planting 400 trees which they donated for the woodland restoration efforts within our division. 300 of these trees, including

Tulip Poplar, Red Maple, and Blackgum, were planted in the woodlands of Caperton Swamp and 100 Sourwood trees were planted in the woodlands of the Horine Reservation. Also as part of the Mayor's Give A Day week we had 22 U of L volunteers help pick up a dump truck load of litter from the downtown corridor of the Louisville Loop!

And due to the good amount of precipitation lately, the trail crew and volunteers have been quite busy clearing vegetation overgrowth from trail corridors throughout the Natural Areas Division. In between our recent rain showers Horticultural Park workers, Matt Blankenship, and Josh Wysor, have been carrying out some finishing "steps" on the Yost Ridge Trail (below left). Yes, they have been installing sandstone steps along areas with steeper grades. Adding steps at these locations will allow the trail to better conform to a classification of "moderate" difficulty and allow a wider group of users to enjoy more remote sections of Jefferson Forest.

Our KYMBA (Kentucky Mountain Bike Association) volunteers have also been busy rerouting and rock armoring several sections of the Fresh Air Loop near the entrance of Waverly Park. These improvements will greatly improve the flow of the trail for mountain bikers, hikers and trail runners.

Our Land Stewards are a tenacious group of dedicated volunteers. They have been quite busy removing large numbers of Multiflora Rose and other invasive shrubs and vines in the Horine Reservation Area. The work of cleaning up these woodlands of invasive pest plants is greatly needed and appreciated.

Kentucky Gladecress Habitat Improvement at McNeely Park

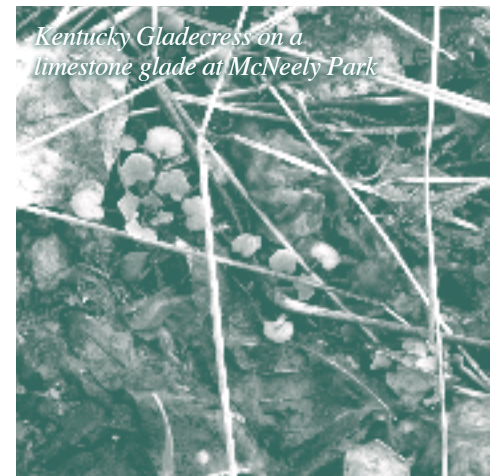
The Natural Areas Division has received funding through the US Fish and Wildlife Service to

carry out habitat improvement work for Kentucky Gladecress (*Leavenworthia exigua* var. *laciniata*) in McNeely Park in southern Jefferson County. Working in cooperation with the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission and the US Fish and Wildlife Service we will be carrying out baseline work on selected glades to document existing conditions and track changes related to habitat improvement work which will be carried out by our staff and volunteers. Baseline work is scheduled to begin early next year followed by work to eliminate competing plant species including native woody plants like Eastern Redcedar and non-native invasive species like Privet, Multiflora Rose, and Periwinkle. We will be tracking changes to the Gladecress population over a number of years and hope to see some very positive outcomes in number of Gladecress and habitat quality.

Kentucky Gladecress is a small member of the mustard family and it blooms very early in the spring with a white to lilac-colored blossom. It is only found in southern Jefferson and northern Bullitt Counties, and it is scheduled for proposed federal listing later this year. The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission reports that there are about 60 known colonies of Kentucky Gladecress and most of these populations are reported to be in decline. Within its endemic Kentucky distribution it is mainly found on limestone glades of Laurel Dolomite. Development pressures and habitat degradation are probably the two most important factors leading to the decline of these populations.



Creating steps on the Yost Ridge Trail



Kentucky Gladecress on a limestone glade at McNeely Park



Summer Camps Wrap-Up



The 2013 Summer Camp season at the Forest has been our most successful to date with a total of nine camps offered! In addition to our familiar favorites such as the Forest Adventures and Water Wonders camp, we had some new offerings this year including a partnership with the Louisville Visual Arts Association. We've received great feedback from campers that they've loved coming to camp and have heard from the parents that they enjoy the convenience of the shuttle option from Joe Creason Park.

Many familiar favorite activities were offered this year depending on the camp including: climbing the Alpine Tower; playing in Otter Creek; visiting Salato Wildlife Education Center; learning about wildlife from one of our partners, Second Chances Wildlife

Center; and seeing the Jefferson Memorial Forest education animals (Hoptimus Prime quickly became the favorite)! During Water Wonders week, the kids learned about watersheds, made terrariums with a recycled 2-liter and, of course, had their favorite activity of the week: canoeing on Tom Wallace Lake. And our older ECO Extreme campers had an adventure canoeing Floyds Fork and camping overnight.

There were also some new camp activities this year that we hope to continue in the future. One addition was an equestrian component to the animal adventures camp. Mary Midkiff, author and equestrian executive, presented a horse program which had the kids out racing in the field. Of course there were some photo finishes. We

look forward to potentially expanding this component of the animal adventures camp next year. Fairies, Gnomes and Trolls had a special guest, Jeff Wallitsch, from Wallitsch's Garden Center. Jeff helped the kids to make their very own fairy garden to take home. We also had a special guest appearance from the Forest Troll who lives under the trail bridge! Also new to our summer camps this year, the Fairdale Library staff came out to read to the kids, as part of the Fairy, Trolls, and Gnomes and Forest Explorers camps.

We thank our summer camp program staff, Matt, Christa, Ryan, Tracey, Bryan, Luke and Jordan, as well as Natural Areas volunteers who made our summer camp season such a wonderful and fun experience for the kids!



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**METRO PARKS
AND RECREATION**

Greg Fischer, Mayor
Louisville Metro Council

New Public Education Supervisor

Please join us in welcoming Rebecca Minnick as the new program manager for the Forest and Natural Areas Division. Rebecca is graduate of Sacred Heart Academy and Hanover College who will be returning to Louisville from years spend in Maine as both a program manager and camp director. She has a Masters in environmental studies with an education concentration from Antioch University. In addition to her experience as an educator she brings valuable public relations and consulting experience. As a bonus, she also happens to be a bluegrass musician. Her first day on the job will be Monday, August 19th. Welcome Rebecca!

Welcome Center Staff Assistant

Please also join us in Welcoming a familiar face to our permanent staff. Missy Hatfield, who has been a dedicated and valuable seasonal for us each of the last three years has been made a permanent part-time employee and will now be with us year round! Congratulations Missy!



TROLLEY HOP DAYS

On dates the New Cut Road Trolley is scheduled to run (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.), make the Welcome Center a stop!

Sat, Aug 17

**Sat, Sept 21 Family Canoe Day at
Tom Wallace Lake**

**Sat, Oct 19 Mayor's Fall Hike
and Adventure**

GET THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL AND ELIMINATE WASTE!

Do your part to save trees and keep our costs down, by emailing forest@louisvilleky.gov with the request "subscribe to newsletter." Include your name and the mailing address where you received this issue, and you will then only receive electronic copies of future newsletters.



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JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST
www.metro-parks.org
Forest/Parks Natural Areas Staff

- Bennett Knox
Parks Administration
- Rebecca Minnick
Public Education Manager
- Urban Lewis
Land Manager
- Sherry Wright
Volunteer Coordinator
- Larry Hilton
Naturalist/Trails Supervisor
- Kecomi
Welcome Center/Reservations
- Matt Douthett
Naturalist/Programs
- Jerry Wadell
Maintenance Supervisor
- Christa Weldner
Naturalist/Programs
- Ryan Zike
Rec Coordinator/Programs